

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LETHALITY ASSESSMENT: FACTORS TO CONSIDER**

- 1. Domestic violence perpetrators access to the victim**
- 2. Pattern of the perpetrator's abuse**
  - a. frequency/severity of the abuse in current, concurrent, past relationships
  - b. use and presence of weapons
  - c. threats to kill
  - d. hostage taking, stalking
  - e. past criminal record
- 3. Perpetrators state of mind**
  - a. obsession with victim; jealousy
  - b. ignoring negative consequences of his violence
  - c. depression/desperation
- 4. Individual factors that reduce behavioral controls of either victim or perpetrator**
  - a. substance abuse
  - b. certain medications
  - c. psychosis, other major mental illnesses
  - d. brain damage
- 5. Suicidality of victim, children, or perpetrator**
- 6. Adult victim's use of physical force**
- 7. Children's use of violence**
- 8. Situational factors:**
  - a. separation violence / victim autonomy
  - b. presence of other major stresses
- 9. Past failures of systems to respond appropriately**